

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW TRAM AND BUS DIVISION



## Secretary's message

We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to every single member who has stood in solidarity and helped fight against the privatisation of region 6. At every event we have members come along and give up their spare time to support the campaign. Because of you we've made our voices loud and clear. Your hard work over the past 6 months in particular has kept our fight going. The fight is not over. The results from the local council elections show that Inner-West residents are not happy with the NSW Liberal Party's privatisation of their bus routes - and that's because of all your hard work in fighting Constance's privatisation scheme.

Our petitions will be debated TWICE in NSW Parliament coming months. The first debate will be on October 12, and the second debate on November 17. These debates would not have happened without your support in gathering over 25,000+ signatures.

This month our radio ads will be airing across 2GB, WSFM and Smooth - so listen out! We also will have big advertisements in the local papers around Ryde, Randwick, Coogee, Mascot and the Northern Beaches. Our people are our Union, and we want to thank you all for your continuous and unwavering support in what has been a very eventful year.

We will keep you up to date with all the latest on Bus Express - so make sure you are subscribed to our fortnightly emails by contacting NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au.



DIVISIONAL SECRETARY  
CHRIS PRESTON

DIVISIONAL PRESIDENT  
DAVID WOOLLAMS

In solidarity,  
Chris Preston  
and Dave Woollams

## Underpayment, lack of security: Newcastle bus privatisation a complete disaster

Bus drivers are being underpaid, services are being cancelled due to poor rostering, and drivers have been left vulnerable to attacks as a result of the NSW Government's bungled privatisation of Newcastle buses.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Tram and Bus Divisional President, Dave Woollams, told media that the privatisation of the region's buses has turned out to be an even bigger disaster than bus drivers originally predicted it would be.

"This is first-rate incompetence from the Transport Minister," Mr Woollams said.

"The list of things that have gone wrong since the NSW Government sold off Newcastle's buses is as long as your arm. We've seen drivers severely underpaid, new buses without basic security systems purchased, and rostering issues so bad that in some cases services have had to be cancelled. Read more of this story on Bus Express.

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## Inner West residents make view on bus privatisation clear in council elections

The results from the local council elections show that Inner-West residents are not happy with the NSW Liberal Party's privatisation of their bus routes. RTBU Bus Divisional Secretary, Chris Preston, told media that it's clear that a contributing factor to the move away from the Liberal Party is the Government's bus privatisation debacle.

"The Liberal Party is clearly on the nose in the inner-west and there's no doubt that's in part due to the State Government's attack on their local buses," Mr Preston said.



## Upcoming events

**Sydney: Don't Sell Our Buses signature collecting and speaking to local commuters.**

- Coogee on October 4th and 5th, 7am Cnr St Pauls Rd & Perouse Rd Randwick)
- Ryde on October 10th and 11th, 7am (Blaxland Rd near Church St)
- Northern Beaches on October 12th, 7am (Narrabeen Terminus, Pitt Water Rd)

**Newcastle: Meet your MPs and have your say!**

Join us on Monday, October 9th to meet your Shadow Transport Minister, Jodi Mackay and other Newcastle Labor MPs. Come along and have your say!

- Monday October 9th, 11am
- RTBU Offices: 33 Gordon Ave, Hamilton
- Light refreshments will be provided

# Newcastle rail line revelations proof of government shonky decision

Revelations in September in Fairfax show that the NSW Government made the decision to close the last section of the Newcastle rail line prior to any costing or assessment of the light rail replacement.

Fairfax reports that the cabinet-in-confidence report, prepared after the decision to close the line, refers to the decision as a "sunk cost" estimated at about \$200 million.

RTBU Tram and Bus Divisional Secretary, Chris Preston said this is proof the decision making around the line closure and light rail introduction wasn't made to benefit commuters and was a disgraceful use of public funds.

"We said all along that the cost were over the top. This proves that to be true," Mr Preston said. "The decision making around the whole process reeks of shonky decision making. Even after the rail line was torn up, the government could have introduced bendy buses that were configured like trams. This could have been done at a fraction of cost and the buses then could have been used elsewhere if needed.

Read more on Bus Express.

## Newcastle Agreement Update

On September 25 we met with Keolis Downer in Newcastle and successfully extended our policies from 3 months to 6 months. This will allow us more time to discuss the implementation of long term policies through consultation with our members and Keolis Downer.

On October 20th, a working group of our delegates and drivers from Hamilton and Belmont, along with our Vice President will meet with Keolis Downer. At the meeting our members and delegates will discuss policies with Keolis Downer including which policies they will be carrying forward into the future.

**Sydney Bus Drivers – Have you received your EA pack? You should've received an email with you EA pack on September 28. Not signed up? Subscribe now by emailing [NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au](mailto:NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au)**

